

**East Greenbush  
Board of Ethics  
September 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Board Members: Kathleen Luria (Chairperson), Jessica Lansing, Cheryl Vallee, Roger Johnson, Guy Warner

BOE attorney - Joe Slater

Town Board Liaison - Mary Ann Matters

BOE Alternate members - Mary Boisvert, Leighton Cookson.

**Call to Order/Determination of Quorum**

Call to order at 7:00 pm and meeting proceeded with the determination of a quorum.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All those present participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**Reading of Minutes**

Mr. Warner made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the April 3, 2017 meeting. Ms. Lansing seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 5 – 0.

**Old Business:**

Chairperson Luria gave an update on her and Mr. Warner's meeting on April 13, 2017 with the Town Supervisor. The Town Supervisor again reiterated his preference to perform the Ethics training himself. In addition it was reported that the Town Supervisor assigned Meaghan Hart to complete the task of creating a PowerPoint presentation as part of the training material. It was stated he advised that she would complete the assignment in "a couple of weeks". Chairperson Luria reported that she received the materials on September 20, 2017.

Mr. Johnson reported that he and the Town Supervisor attempted to meet with the Chief of Police twice to discuss ethics training but unfortunately both meetings were cancelled. To date they have not met.

A short discussion ensued regarding possible barriers to training police department personnel including possible conflicts with the Police Department's manual (Mr. Johnson stated he believed there were no conflicts) and whether there was a problem with training due to overtime concerns and police coverage.

A discussion arose on whether the training would be annual. The general consensus, and the interpretation of the current ethics law by Mr. Slater, is that the training would be given to employees once. Question arose on how other towns give training. Chairperson Luria to do some research on the matter and report back to the BOE.

A discussion arose regarding the “appropriateness” of the Town Supervisor performing the ethics training. An 8/9/2017 article in the Albany Times Union was referenced, including a quote by the Town Supervisor which stated “East Greenbush First would run a full slate again in the 2019 election” which to some sounded like an ongoing political party-like entity. The general consensus was that someone who will be taking the ethics training should not be giving the training.

This discussion thread was left for the moment and the BOE shifted to a discussion of issues it had with the training document that was given to Chairperson Luria on September 20, 2017. After a discussion of concerns regarding a bullet on future employment, where the definitions should appear, and if the document should be part of the training materials (it was stated that there was a need for a “facilitator’s guide”) the discussion shifted back to the “appropriateness” of the Town Supervisor performing the ethics training.

A discussion took place on whether the BOE should again reach out to the Town Supervisor re: his wanting to give the ethics training. Ms. Lansing offered to discuss with the Town Supervisor the possibility of the Town Board meeting with the BOE to discuss this point.

A vote was taken on the proposal that the BOE leave the decision on who was going to give the training up to the Town Supervisor and limit any further role by the BOE to comments regarding the current training document. This proposal was defeated 4 – 1 with Ms. Luria, Ms. Lansing, Ms. Vallee, and Mr. Warner voting no and Mr. Johnson voting yes.

A vote was taken on the proposal that Ms. Lansing discuss with the Town Supervisor the possibility of the Town Board meeting with the BOE to discuss this point either at a Town Board pre-meeting or a Special Meeting. This proposal passed 4 – 1 with Ms. Luria, Ms. Lansing, Ms. Vallee, and Mr. Warner voting yes and Mr. Johnson voting no.

Ms. Lansing stated she would reach out to the Town Supervisor and will let us know the outcome.

Chairperson Luria requested all BOE members send her any comments re: corrections or suggested examples re: the training material under review.

Ms. Lansing offered to draft an agenda for the Town Board pre-meeting or Special Meeting.

### **Call to Adjourn**

Ms. Lansing made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vallee seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 5 – 0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Guy Warner.